

2018

MFA: M League Rules



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McDonald's M-League 1: 2018 - Rules

1. Teams applying to play in the “**McDonald's M-League 1**” will pay an application fee as outlined below:

ML – 1: \$1,500.00 payable in 2 instalments:

1st payment due at team confirmation in January 2018, and the 2nd at commencement of round 1.

This fee covers the competition entry fee, and 10 tickets to the gala dinner. Each club will receive a \$500.00 team incentive payment at the end of the season from the MFA.

2. The **McDonald's M – League 1 competition** shall consist of either an 8 team, or 10 team (maximum) competition.
3. **ML1 and ML2** will begin transition to a squad format from 2018, with teams who fail to nominate a squad in both ML1 and ML2 to be 'paired' with a similar team in the corresponding competition for the purposes of the draw.
4. Nominations for “**McDonalds M – League 1**” will consist of one team per application, and will be strictly limited to one team per club however the MFA Board *may consider, by exception*, the addition of a second team in this competition in 2018 if:
 - a) There is a spot available within the maximum 10 team competition structure
 - b) The nominating Club will be required to have two teams in the **McDonald's M – League 2** competition
 - c) The addition of a 2nd team is not to the detriment of another Club wanting to join the competition
 - d) If second team nomination is approved, the nominating Club will need to pay *two* application fees
5. **McDonalds M – League 1 : Team and Squad Member Numbers and Borrowing Rules:**
 - a) Each team may nominate a team size of 16 players, but can borrow any player from within their club without penalty.
 - b) All ML squads and teams will be able to borrow players from lower divisions within their own club on an UNLIMITED basis, with the only exception being that, should a club submit two (2) ML1/2 squads, those squads will be treated as separate entities and no borrowing will be allowed between those squads. For example; A Narellan Red ML1/2 could not borrow players from a Narellan Blue ML1/2 squad and vice versa, but both squads may still borrow players from lower divisions per the new unlimited rule.
 - c) Any squad who nominates for ML1 or ML2 will be allowed to register up to 32 players to be declared as part of their squad.
 - d) All clubs with a squad will still be required to submit an ML1 side with up to 16 players and an ML2 side with up to 16 players for the purpose of determining eligibility for Finals & Champion of Champions.
 - e) All players registered as part of an ML1/2 squad will have unlimited movement within the squad, allowing coaches to select their best available team for ML1 each week.
 - f) Players borrowed from lower All Age divisions and down to under 17's must be aged 16 as at January 1 in the calendar year.

6. Clubs can request a regrade for any **“McDonald’s M – League 1”** squad member to a lower league prior to 30 June. Any regraded players cannot however, be borrowed again for **“McDonald’s M – League 1”** games for the remainder of the season unless that player is a listed Goalkeeper.
7. To **nominate a team** in the **“McDonald’s M – League 1”** competition, please complete the nomination form as annexed to this “Rules” document and return to the MFA Office **no later than 15 December 2017**
8. 5 match balls will be provided by the MFA to each **“McDonald’s M – League 1 team”**
9. The competition will be played as follows:
 - (a) Games shall be played on a home and away basis as allocated by the Fixtures Committee, subject to availability of grounds and referees
 - (b) A minimum of two rounds as determined by the MFA. The team leading the competition on points at the end of the final round will be declared the Premiers.
 - (b) Where teams finish equal on points the goal difference will decide the winner.
 - (c) Should teams still be level in all other aspects they shall play off to determine the Premiership
 - (d) Extra time will be played in the finals series. If the score is equal at full time, 15 minutes each way will be played. If still equal, at the completion of extra time, a penalty shoot-out will determine the winner.
 - (e) The winner of the **“McDonald’s M – League ” (ML – 1)** Premiership, as per 6 (a) above shall be the Association’s nominee in the appropriate Football NSW “Champion of Champions” competition
10. Players registered in an ML1/2 squad will automatically be eligible for the ML1 finals series.
11. Playing shirts must be numbered and only registered colours of the club may be worn by all **“McDonald’s M – League 1”** teams as approved by the MFA. All playing shirts must have the club logo on the left chest, the MFA Association on the right chest and the McDonalds logo on the left sleeve.
12. Player Registration Cards are to be contained within a card holder and MFA lanyard worn by players (and Coach and Manager) prior to the start of the game for inspection by the opposition Coach/Manager.
13. Selected **“McDonald’s M – League 1”** games may be played on the Association’s ground at Lynwood Park.
14. Clubs with appropriate lighting may apply to play Saturday night matches. The opposing club must agree to the fixture change, night games will not be automatically granted.
15. **Forfeits:** Forfeit fines will increase to \$500 in the first instance, and \$1000 in the second instance for all ML and WML competitions from 2018. Any team that forfeits a third time will be withdrawn from the competition and an additional fine or sanction may be imposed
16. **Game Change Requests:** The team requesting the change will complete an electronic form highlighting the request and preferred dates/times to reschedule the fixture. The opposing team will have an opportunity to review and accept the request, or to respond with alternative dates/times. Once the two teams have reached agreement, the form will be forwarded to the Competitions Manager who will facilitate the change. Only in the event that no agreement can be reached may the team requesting the change contact the office for

mediation and resolution of the request by the MFA Competitions Department. Teams must note that even if a change request is accepted, the venue for the fixture cannot be assured and will be assigned on a "best available" basis.

17. All other Competition rules and By-Laws of MFA apply to the **"McDonald's M - League"** competitions.

18. The finals Series will consist of a 5 team 4 week format

	Match	Fixture
Week 1	1	Team 1 (Premiers) = bye
	2	Team 2 V Team 3 Winner to Match 5 Loser to Match 4
	3	Team 4 V Team 5 Winner to Match 4 Loser eliminated
Week 2	4	Loser Match 2 V Winner Match 3 Winner to Match 6 Loser Eliminated
	5	Team 1 (Premiers) v Winner Match 2 Winner to GF – Loser to Match 6
Week 3	6	Winner Match 4 v Loser Match 5
Week 4	GF	Winner Match 4 v Winner Match 5

19. Prize money, as determined by the Board of Directors will be awarded to both Premiers and Champions in the following ratio:

- Premiers \$5,000.00
- Champions \$3,000.00

20. **"McDonald's M – League 1"** shall be played under interchange rules.

21. Gala Dinner Awards will be for all divisions .i.e. Golden boot, Player of the year, Goalkeeper of the year, Coach of the year and referee of the year. These awards are determined by Referees from the MDFRA nominating players each week on the official MFA M League Match Card.

22. Prior to a team being accepted in **"McDonald's M – League 1"**, they must have a registered coach that has current and accredited Senior licence or in the process of completing the course

Other:

23. "Referee of the Year" awards will see a new process in 2018. The MDFRA will nominate 3 referees per award category to be voted upon by the relevant teams

McDonald's M-League 2: 2018 - Rules

1. Teams applying to play in the “**McDonald's M-League 2**” will pay an application fee as outlined below:

ML – 2: \$750.00 per team payable in 2 instalments:

1st payment due at team confirmation in January 2018, and the 2nd at commencement of round 1.

This fee covers the competition entry fee, and 10 tickets to the gala dinner.

2. The **McDonald's M – League 2 competition** shall consist of either an 8 team, or 10 team (maximum) competition.
3. **ML1 and ML2** will begin transition to a squad format from 2018, with teams who fail to nominate a squad in both ML1 and ML2 to be 'paired' with a similar team in the corresponding competition for the purposes of the draw.
4. Nominations for “**McDonalds M – League 2**” will consist of no more than two teams per application, and will be strictly limited to two teams per club however the MFA Board *may consider, by exception*, the addition of a third team in this competition in 2018 if:
 - a) There is a spot available within the maximum 10 team competition structure
 - b) The addition of a 3rd team is not to the detriment of another Club wanting to join the competition
 - c) If a third team nomination is approved, the nominating Club will need to pay *three* application fees
5. **McDonalds M – League 2 : Team and Squad Member Numbers and Borrowing Rules:**
 - a) Each team may nominate a team size of 16 players, but can borrow any player from within their club without penalty.
 - b) All ML squads and teams will be able to borrow players from lower divisions within their own club on an UNLIMITED basis, with the only exception being that, should a club submit two (2) ML1/2 squads, those squads will be treated as separate entities and no borrowing will be allowed between those squads. For example; A Narellan Red ML1/2 could not borrow players from a Narellan Blue ML1/2 squad and vice versa, but both squads may still borrow players from lower divisions per the new unlimited rule.
 - c) Any squad who nominates for ML1 or ML2 will be allowed to register up to 32 players to be declared as part of their squad.
 - d) All clubs with a squad will still be required to submit an ML1 side with up to 16 players and an ML2 side with up to 16 players for the purpose of determining eligibility for Finals & Champion of Champions.
 - e) All players registered as part of an ML1/2 squad will have unlimited movement within the squad, allowing coaches to select their best available team for ML1 each week.
 - f) Players borrowed from lower All Age divisions and down to under 17's must be aged 16 as at January 1 in the calendar year.
6. Clubs can request a regrade for any “**McDonald's M – League 2**” squad member to a lower league prior to 30 June. Any regraded players cannot however, be borrowed again for “**McDonald's M – League 1 or 2**” games for the remainder of the season unless that player is a listed Goalkeeper.

7. To **nominate a team** in the “**McDonald’s M – League 2**” competition, please complete the nomination form as annexed to this “Rules” document and return to the MFA Office **no later than 15 December 2017**
8. 5 match balls will be provided by the MFA to each “**McDonald’s M – League 2 team**”
9. The competition will be played as follows:
 - (c) Games shall be played on a home and away basis as allocated by the Fixtures Committee, subject to availability of grounds and referees
 - (d) A minimum of two rounds as determined by the MFA. The team leading the competition on points at the end of the final round will be declared the Premiers.
 - (f) Where teams finish equal on points the goal difference will decide the winner.
 - (g) Should teams still be level in all other aspects they shall play off to determine the Premiership
 - (h) Extra time will be played in the finals series. If the score is equal at full time, 15 minutes each way will be played. If still equal, at the completion of extra time, a penalty shoot-out will determine the winner.
10. Players registered in an ML1/2 squad will automatically be eligible for the ML1 finals series.

In order to be eligible for ML2 finals series a player within an ML1/2 squad **MUST** have been deemed to have played at least 50% of regular season matches for that ML2 team.
11. Playing shirts must be numbered and only registered colours of the club may be worn by all “**McDonald’s M – League 2**” teams as approved by the MFA. All playing shirts must have the club logo on the left chest, the MFA Association on the right chest and the McDonalds logo on the left sleeve.
12. Player Registration Cards are to be contained within a card holder and MFA lanyard worn by players (and Coach and Manager) prior to the start of the game for inspection by the opposition Coach/Manager.
13. Selected “**McDonald’s M – League 2**” games may be played on the Association’s ground at Lynwood Park.
14. Clubs with appropriate lighting may apply to play Saturday night matches. The opposing club must agree to the fixture change, night games will not be automatically granted.
15. **Forfeits:** Forfeit fines will increase to \$500 in the first instance, and \$1000 in the second instance for all ML and WML competitions from 2018. Any team that forfeits a third time will be withdrawn from the competition and an additional fine or sanction may be imposed
16. **Game Change Requests:** The team requesting the change will complete an electronic form highlighting the request and preferred dates/times to reschedule the fixture. The opposing team will have an opportunity to review and accept the request, or to respond with alternative dates/times. Once the two teams have reached agreement, the form will be forwarded to the Competitions Manager who will facilitate the change. Only in the event that no agreement can be reached may the team requesting the change contact the office for mediation and resolution of the request by the MFA Competitions Department. Teams must note that even if a change request is accepted, the venue for the fixture cannot be assured and will be assigned on a "best available" basis.

17. All other Competition rules and By-Laws of MFA apply to the **“McDonalds’s M - League”** competitions.
18. The finals Series will consist of a 5 team 4 week format

	Match	Fixture
Week 1	1	Team 1 (Premiers) = bye
	2	Team 2 V Team 3 Winner to Match 5 Loser to Match 4
	3	Team 4 V Team 5 Winner to Match 4 Loser eliminated
Week 2	4	Loser Match 2 V Winner Match 3 Winner to Match 6 Loser Eliminated
	5	Team 1 (Premiers) v Winner Match 2 Winner to GF – Loser to Match 6
Week 3	6	Winner Match 4 v Loser Match 5
Week 4	GF	Winner Match 4 v Winner Match 5

19. Prize money, as determined by the Board of Directors will be awarded to both Premiers and Champions in the following ratio:
- Premiers \$2,000.00
 - Champions \$1,000.00
20. **“McDonald’s M – League 2”** shall be played under interchange rules.
21. Gala Dinner Awards will be for all divisions .i.e. Golden boot, Player of the year, Goalkeeper of the year, Coach of the year and referee of the year. These awards are determined by Referees from the MDFRA nominating players each week on the official MFA M-League Match Card.
22. Prior to a team being accepted in **“McDonald’s M – League 2”**, they must have a registered coach that has current and accredited Senior licence or in the process of completing the course

Other:

23. "Referee of the Year" awards will see a new process in 2018. The MDFRA will nominate 3 referees per award category to be voted upon by the relevant teams

McDonald's M-League 3: 2018 - Rules

1. Teams applying to play in the **"McDonald's M-League 3"** will pay an application fee as outlined below:

ML – 3: \$750.00 per team payable in 2 instalments:

1st payment due at team confirmation in January 2018, and the 2nd at commencement of round 1.

This fee covers the competition entry fee, and 10 tickets to the gala dinner.

2. The **McDonald's M – League 3 competition** shall consist of either an 8 team, or 10 team (maximum) competition.
3. Nominations for **"McDonalds M – League 3"** will consist of no more than two teams per application, and will be strictly limited to two teams per club
4. **McDonalds M – League 3 : Team Member Numbers and Borrowing Rules:**
 - a) Each team may nominate a team size of 16 players, but can borrow any player from lower divisions within their own club on an UNLIMITED basis without penalty.
 - b) Players borrowed from lower All Age divisions and down to under 17's must be aged 16 as at January 1 in the calendar year.
5. Clubs can request a regrade for any **"McDonald's M – League 3"** squad member to a lower league prior to 30 June. Any regraded players cannot however, be borrowed again for **"McDonald's M – League 1, 2 or 3"** games for the remainder of the season unless that player is a listed Goalkeeper.
6. To **nominate a team** in the **"McDonald's M – League 3"** competition, please complete the nomination form as annexed to this "Rules" document and return to the MFA Office **no later than 15 December 2017**
7. 5 match balls will be provided by the MFA to each **"McDonald's M – League 3 team"**
8. The competition will be played as follows:
 - (e) Games shall be played on a home and away basis as allocated by the Fixtures Committee, subject to availability of grounds and referees
 - (f) A minimum of two rounds as determined by the MFA. The team leading the competition on points at the end of the final round will be declared the Premiers.
 - (i) Where teams finish equal on points the goal difference will decide the winner.
 - (j) Should teams still be level in all other aspects they shall play off to determine the Premiership
 - (k) Extra time will be played in the finals series. If the score is equal at full time, 15 minutes each way will be played. If still equal, at the completion of extra time, a penalty shoot-out will determine the winner.
9. Players registered in an ML3 squad will automatically be eligible for the ML3 finals series.

In order to be eligible for ML3 finals series, a lower division player from within the Club, player MUST have been deemed to have played at least 5 games of regular season matches for that ML3 team.

10. Playing shirts must be numbered and only registered colours of the club may be worn by all **"McDonald's M – League 3"** teams as approved by the MFA. All playing shirts must have the club logo on the left chest, the MFA Association on the right chest and the McDonalds logo on the left sleeve.
11. Player Registration Cards are to be contained within a card holder and MFA lanyard worn by players (and Coach and Manager) prior to the start of the game for inspection by the opposition Coach/Manager.
12. Selected **"McDonald's M – League 3"** games may be played on the Association's ground at Lynwood Park.
13. Clubs with appropriate lighting may apply to play Saturday night matches. The opposing club must agree to the fixture change, night games will not be automatically granted.
14. **Forfeits:** Forfeit fines will increase to \$500 in the first instance, and \$1000 in the second instance for all ML and WML competitions from 2018. Any team that forfeits a third time will be withdrawn from the competition and an additional fine or sanction may be imposed
15. **Game Change Requests:** The team requesting the change will complete an electronic form highlighting the request and preferred dates/times to reschedule the fixture. The opposing team will have an opportunity to review and accept the request, or to respond with alternative dates/times. Once the two teams have reached agreement, the form will be forwarded to the Competitions Manager who will facilitate the change. Only in the event that no agreement can be reached may the team requesting the change contact the office for mediation and resolution of the request by the MFA Competitions Department. Teams must note that even if a change request is accepted, the venue for the fixture cannot be assured and will be assigned on a "best available" basis.
16. All other Competition rules and By-Laws of MFA apply to the **"McDonalds's M - League"** competitions.
17. The finals Series will consist of a 5 team 4 week format

	Match	Fixture
Week 1	1	Team 1 (Premiers) = bye
	2	Team 2 V Team 3 Winner to Match 5 Loser to Match 4
	3	Team 4 V Team 5 Winner to Match 4 Loser eliminated
Week 2	4	Loser Match 2 V Winner Match 3 Winner to Match 6 Loser Eliminated
	5	Team 1 (Premiers) v Winner Match 2 Winner to GF – Loser to Match 6
Week 3	6	Winner Match 4 v Loser Match 5
Week 4	GF	Winner Match 4 v Winner Match 5

18. Prize money, as determined by the Board of Directors will be awarded to both Premiers and Champions in the following ratio:
 - Premiers \$1,000.00
 - Champions \$500.00
19. **“McDonald’s M – League 3”** shall be played under interchange rules.
20. Gala Dinner Awards will be for all divisions .i.e. Golden boot, Player of the year, Goalkeeper of the year, Coach of the year and referee of the year. These awards are determined by Referees from the MDFRA nominating players each week on the official MFA M-League Match Card.
21. Prior to a team being accepted in **“McDonald’s M – League 3”**, they must have a registered coach that has current and accredited Senior licence or in the process of completing the course
22. Promotion of the two teams placed 1st and 2nd into the **“McDonald’s M – League 2”** will be considered and relegation of the 2 teams placed last and second last into All Age Men’s Division 2 will be considered

Other:

23. "Referee of the Year" awards will see a new process in 2018. The MDFRA will nominate 3 referees per award category to be voted upon by the relevant teams

Westpac Women's M-League: 2018 - Rules

1. Teams applying to play in the **"Westpac Women's M-League"** will pay an application fee as outlined below:

WML: \$500.00 per team payable in 2 instalments:
 1st payment due at team confirmation in January 2018, and the 2nd at commencement of round 1.

 This fee covers the competition entry fee, and 10 tickets to the gala dinner.
2. The **"Westpac Women's M-League"** shall consist of either an 8 team, or 10 team (maximum) competition.
3. Nominations for **"Westpac Women's M-League"** will consist of no more than one team per application
4. **"Westpac Women's M-League": Team Member Numbers and Borrowing Rules:**
 - a) Each team may nominate a team size of 16 players, but can borrow any player from lower divisions within their own club on an UNLIMITED basis without penalty.
 - b) Players borrowed from lower All Age divisions and down to under 18 Girls must be aged 16 as at January 1 in the calendar year.
5. Clubs can request a regrade for any **"Westpac Women's M-League"** squad member to a lower league prior to 30 June. Any regraded players cannot however, be borrowed again for **"Westpac Women's M-League"** games for the remainder of the season unless that player is a listed Goalkeeper.
6. To **nominate a team** in the **"Westpac Women's M-League"** competition, please complete the nomination form as annexed to this "Rules" document and return to the MFA Office **no later than 15 December 2017**
7. 5 match balls will be provided by the MFA to each **"Westpac Women's M-League"**
8. The competition will be played as follows:
 - (a) Games shall be played on a home and away basis as allocated by the Fixtures Committee, subject to availability of grounds and referees
 - (b) A minimum of two rounds as determined by the MFA. The team leading the competition on points at the end of the final round will be declared the Premiers.
 - (l) Where teams finish equal on points the goal difference will decide the winner.
 - (m) Should teams still be level in all other aspects they shall play off to determine the Premiership
 - (n) Extra time will be played in the finals series. If the score is equal at full time, 15 minutes each way will be played. If still equal, at the completion of extra time, a penalty shoot-out will determine the winner.
9. Players registered in a WML squad will automatically be eligible for the WML finals series.

In order to be eligible for WML finals series, a lower division player from within the Club, player MUST have been deemed to have played at least 5 games of regular season matches for that WML team.

10. Playing shirts must be numbered and only registered colours of the club may be worn by all **"Westpac Women's M-League"** teams as approved by the MFA. All playing shirts must have the club logo on the left chest, the MFA Association on the right chest and the Westpac logo on the left sleeve.
11. Player Registration Cards are to be contained within a card holder and MFA lanyard worn by players (and Coach and Manager) prior to the start of the game for inspection by the opposition Coach/Manager.
12. Selected **"Westpac Women's M-League"** games may be played on the Association's ground at Lynwood Park.
13. Clubs with appropriate lighting may apply to play Saturday night matches. The opposing club must agree to the fixture change, night games will not be automatically granted. Otherwise games will *generally* be played at 11.00am on a Sunday morning.
14. **Forfeits:** Forfeit fines will increase to \$500 in the first instance, and \$1000 in the second instance for all WML competitions from 2018. Any team that forfeits a third time will be withdrawn from the competition and an additional fine or sanction may be imposed
15. **Game Change Requests:** The team requesting the change will complete an electronic form highlighting the request and preferred dates/times to reschedule the fixture. The opposing team will have an opportunity to review and accept the request, or to respond with alternative dates/times. Once the two teams have reached agreement, the form will be forwarded to the Competitions Manager who will facilitate the change. Only in the event that no agreement can be reached may the team requesting the change contact the office for mediation and resolution of the request by the MFA Competitions Department. Teams must note that even if a change request is accepted, the venue for the fixture cannot be assured and will be assigned on a "best available" basis.
16. All other Competition rules and By-Laws of MFA apply to the **"Westpac Women's M-League"** competitions.
17. The finals Series will consist of a 5 team 4 week format

	Match	Fixture
Week 1	1	Team 1 (Premiers) = bye
	2	Team 2 V Team 3 Winner to Match 5 Loser to Match 4
	3	Team 4 V Team 5 Winner to Match 4 Loser eliminated
Week 2	4	Loser Match 2 V Winner Match 3 Winner to Match 6 Loser Eliminated
	5	Team 1 (Premiers) v Winner Match 2 Winner to GF – Loser to Match 6
Week 3	6	Winner Match 4 v Loser Match 5
Week 4	GF	Winner Match 4 v Winner Match 5

18. Prize money, as determined by the Board of Directors will be awarded to both Premiers and Champions in the following ratio:
 - Premiers \$5,000.00
 - Champions \$3,000.00
19. **“Westpac Women’s M-League”** shall be played under interchange rules.
20. Gala Dinner Awards will be for all divisions .i.e. Golden boot, Player of the year, Goalkeeper of the year, Coach of the year and referee of the year. These awards are determined by Referees from the MDFRA nominating players each week on the official MFA M-League Match Card.
21. Prior to a team being accepted in **“Westpac Women’s M-League”**, they must have a registered coach that has current and accredited Senior licence or in the process of completing the course
22. Promotion of the two teams placed 1st and 2nd in All Age Ladies Division 2 in the previous season may be considered for promotion onto the **“Westpac Women’s M-League”** competition.

Relegation of the 2 teams placed last and second last in the previous season “Westpac Women’s M-League” competition into All Age Ladies Division 2 may be considered

Other:

23. "Referee of the Year" awards will see a new process in 2018. The MDFRA will nominate 3 referees per award category to be voted upon by the relevant teams
24. Wherever possible, and applicable, the Competitions Department will align U18 and/or U16 Ladies fixtures to precede WML fixtures

M-League 2018 Nomination Form

Club Name:	
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We have read and understand the rules and regulations around the various M-League Competitions and herewith put forward our application for inclusion into the following M-League competitions:

M-League Division 1	Team Name:		Part of Squad Y/N	
M-League Division 2	Team Name:		Part of Squad Y/N	
M-League Division 2	Team Name:		Part of Squad Y/N	
M-League Division 3	Team Name:			
M-League Division 3	Team Name:			
Women's M-League	Team Name:			

Preferred Game Days and Times (Saturday or Sunday):

M-League Division 1	Day:		Time:	
M-League Division 2	Day:		Time:	
M-League Division 2	Day:		Time:	
M-League Division 3	Day:		Time:	
M-League Division 3	Day:		Time:	
Women's M-League	Day:		Time:	

We acknowledge:

- (a) Team Nomination Fees will be paid in two instalments against invoice issued by Macarthur Football Association. First instalment will be payable after team has been accepted in January 2018.
- (b) Team lists will be provided to Macarthur Football Association by 31 January 2018.

Signed on Behalf of Application Club: Date: